

Ledknapper Nature Reserve

Fire Management Strategy 2019 - 2024



This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance.

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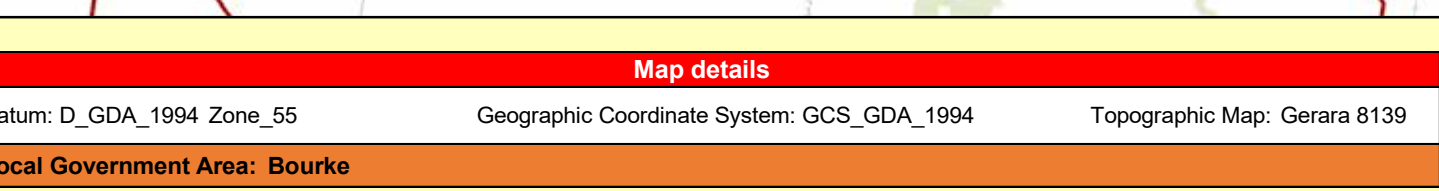
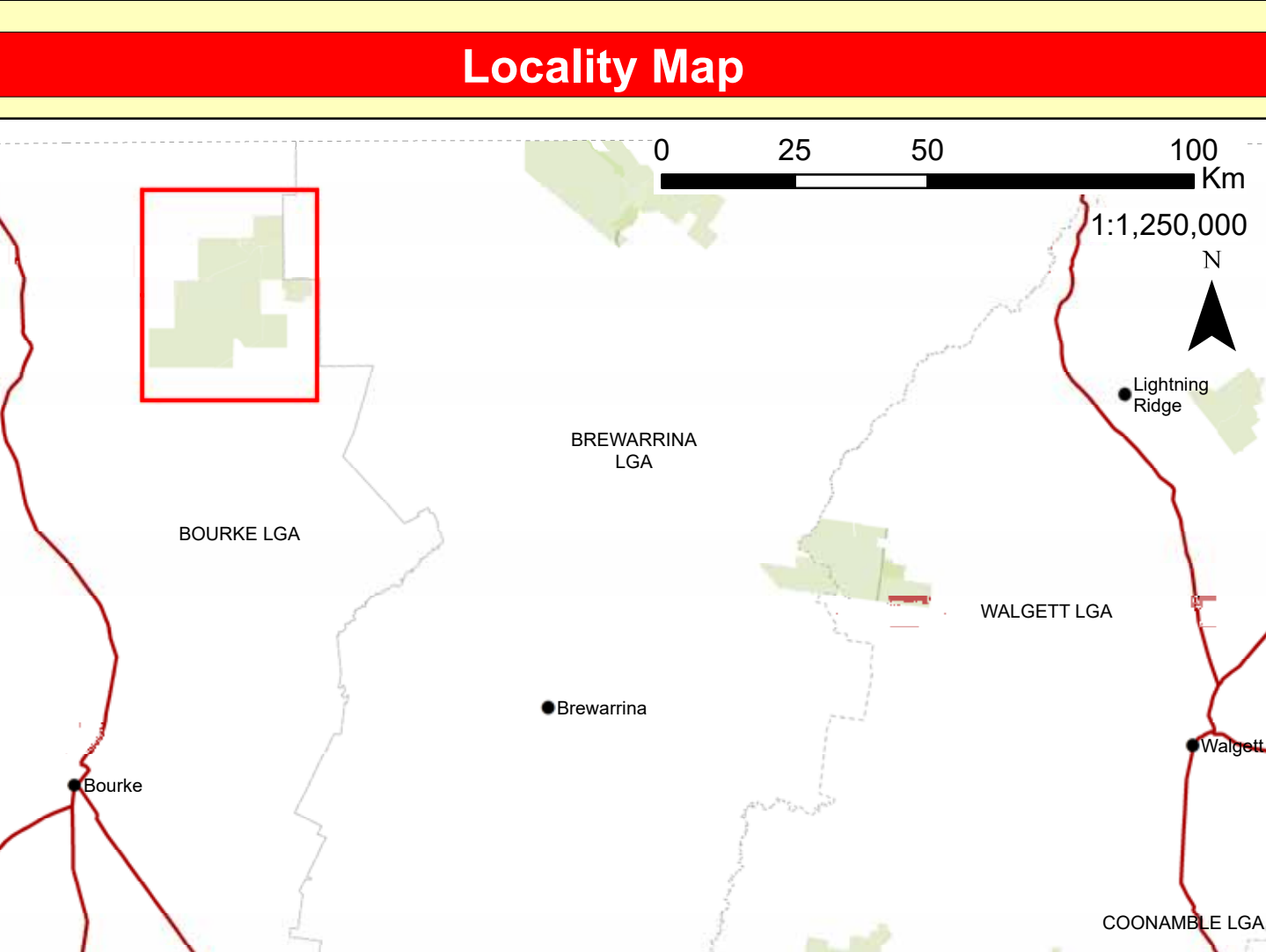
Office of Environment & Heritage

This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997.

Fire Season Information

Wildfires The critical wildfire season occurs during November to February. This period may extend into the first half of March. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

Prescribed Burning Prescribed burning should be undertaken before autumn rain occurs to maximise effectiveness. Burning may also be considered in late winter and early spring dependent on seasonal factors. Prescribed burning undertaken near the commencement of the statutory bushfire season should be fully contained.



Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	21	Boulah - coverage in reserve vicinity only. No link back to Bourke.
NPWS VHF Repeaters		Request through Team Leader Fire
RFS	W001	Digital Voice or UHF Ch 37
UHF - CB	37	Channel to be confirmed by MFF fires determined by MFF frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Aviation - CTAF	134.70	Mobile coverage is generally unavailable for most of the reserve
Mobile Phone		Good signal strength
Satellite Phone	0147 165 830	

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	City Office (24 hours)	02 9275 1342
	Bourke Area Office (bus. hours)	02 6930 0200
	Ledknapper NR (Boulah Office)	02 6874 7432
	District Manager	02 6836 1226
	Inspector, Vascular Ecology	0488 831 366
	District Controller (Call first for wildfires) - Chris Wilcox	0419 004 111
NSW Rural Fire Service	Bourke Fire Control Centre - Chris Wilcox	02 6872 4023 including AH
Fire and Rescue NSW	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
Emergency Services	Call Centre	132 500
SES	Bourke Unit	02 6872 1444
Police	Bourke	02 6870 0899
Quarant	Bourke Shire Council	02 6930 0007
Neighbours	Current Road Conditions at	0419 222 055
	Nz Shire/NSW Councils & Community Relations/Shareholder	Geodatabase

Operational Guidelines

Aerial Operations

- Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations.
- The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.
- All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a senior NPWS officer or the Section 44 Appointee.

Backburning

- All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.
- Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness.
- Backburning in Spinifex must be carefully planned and timed to avoid fire runs.

Command & Control

- The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.
- The initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.

Containment Lines

- New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
- All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.

Earthmoving Equipment

- Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer.
- Plant must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack, this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle.
- Machinery should be excluded from Brigalow - Gidgee Woodlands is limited to fire trails and dormant trails.
- Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed 20-50 metres from the gully line to avoid severe erosion.
- Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.

Fire Suppression Chemicals

- The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water.
- The normal use of gels and retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer.
- The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.

Rehabilitation

- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

Water Points

- Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.

Smoke Management

- Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.

Visitor Management

- Implement the emergency management plan during Severe + Fire Danger, or when fires are threatening walking trails and public use facilities. Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website.
- The reserve is generally closed to the general public.

WARNINGS

- The potential rate of spread in spinifex areas is very rapid, and the risk of entrapment very high. Burning should be carefully considered during periods of running fire, particularly in foot of the head.

Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - important warnings

Heritage Guidelines

IS 1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees.

IS 2 - As far as practicable protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.

IS 3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by fire without damage.

Modified trees

- As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees
- Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.

Habitat sites

- Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites.
- AIIMS databases must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.
- Old Gerara Springs is a site of significance. No heavy plant inside fenced area.
- Buildings and facilities associated with past agricultural enterprises - Protect timber elements as the situation permits. Manage heavy plant to protect assets

Historic Sites

- The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines
- Machinery should be excluded from Brigalow and Coolbath woodlands.
- Manage vegetation for diversity of time since fire.

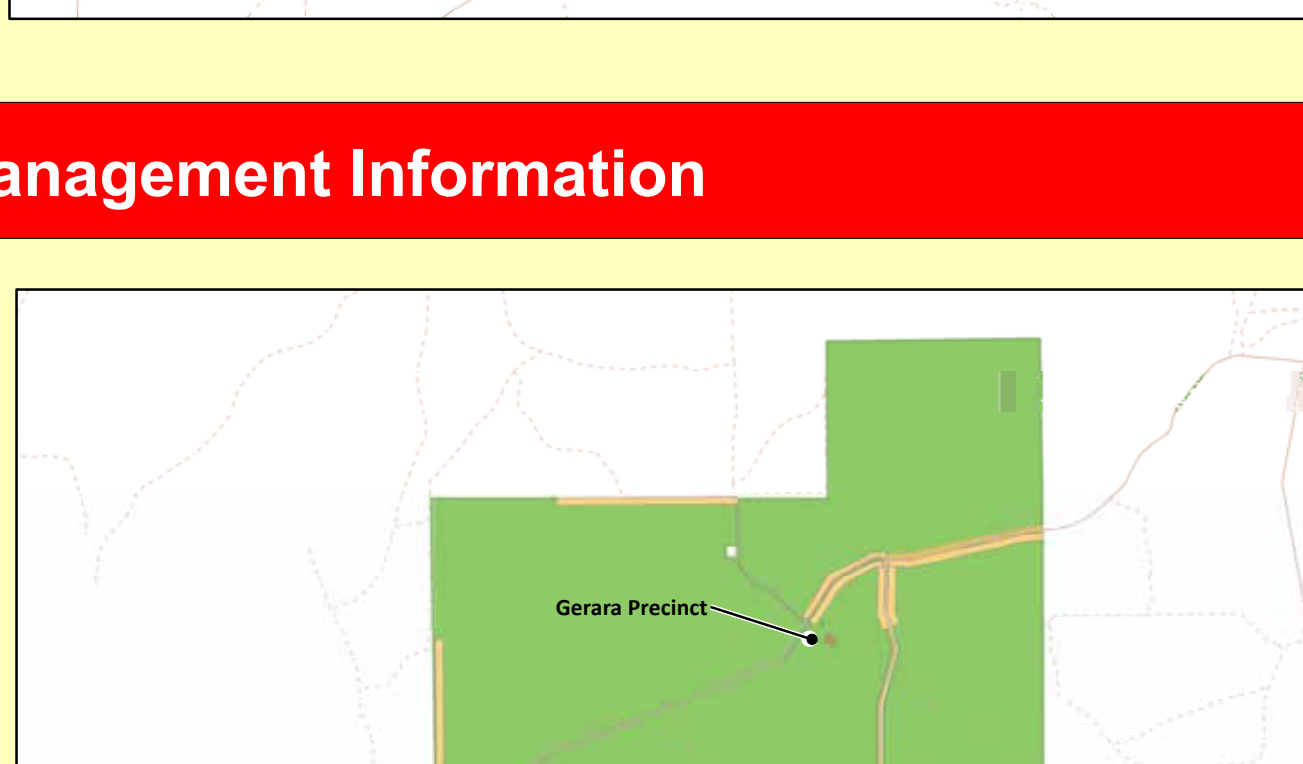
Threatened Fauna & Flora

- Light blading may be employed during control line construction.
- Bar drains or roll-overs must be constructed as soon as possible.

Soil Erosion Management

Risk Management Information

Fire Management Zone	Treatment
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity in locations to assist containment of wildfires, by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard less than HIGH.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.



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Suppression Strategies

Conditions	Guidelines
All vegetation types excluding Ledknapper Spinifex Communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units. Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running. Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum. If fire is running, it will slow considerably when it reaches Brigalow, Belah or Bimble box country.
Ledknapper Spinifex Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges or in vegetation with LOW OFH. Fallback to existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH. Do not attempt backburning in the predicted path of running fire in this vegetation. Backburning must be carefully timed and planned to avoid adding to fire runs. Parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning: Volatile fire runs should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high. The distance between the flank and fire fighters should be kept to a minimum.

